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THE HARRISON ANTINARCOTIC LAW.

HELD TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL BY A UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington has decided that section 8 of the Harrison antinarcotic law¹ is constitutional. This section provides that possession or control of the habit-forming drugs named in the act, by a person who has not registered and paid the special tax, is unlawful, and such possession or control is made presumptive evidence of a violation of the act.

The court said that the purpose of the act was to prohibit the importation, manufacture, or sale of opium and the other drugs included in the act, and that Congress had "the right to make it unlawful for any person who has not complied with the provisions of the act by registration or paying a tax, to have in his possession this 'outlawed' article."

The opinion is published in full at page 3631 of this issue of the Public Health Reports.

STRYCHNINE SULPHATE.

ITS EFFECT ON CALIFORNIA VALLEY QUAIL.

By C. C. PIERCE, Senior Surgeon, and M. T. CLEGG, Bacteriologist, United States Public Health Service.

For several years the United States Public Health Service, in cooperation with the California State Board of Health, has been conducting a campaign for the eradication of ground squirrels. This work is being carried out under a State law and on account of plague infection existing among California ground squirrels.

One of the methods used to destroy squirrels is distributing poisoned barley over infected lands during the dry season. Barley is

¹ This law was published in the Public Health Reports Feb. 19, 1915, p. 573.